Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims

1. (cancelled)

2. (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 1~~ A method for controlling an on/off state of an internal combustion engine disposed in a motor vehicle, the running internal combustion engine capable of being automatically switched off, comprising: suppressing said capability of automatically switching off in response to detection of a stop-and-go situation; and

wherein said stop-and-go situation is detected when a vehicle brake is released and reactivated within a predetermined time and a velocity of the vehicle is less than a predetermined speed.

3. (original) The method of claim 2 wherein said time is 5 sec.

4. (original) The method of claim 2 wherein said predetermined speed is 5 km/hr.

5. (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 1,~~ A method for controlling an on/off state of an internal combustion engine disposed in a motor vehicle, the running internal combustion engine capable of being automatically switched off, comprising: suppressing said capability of automatically switching off in response to detection of a stop-and-go situation; and

further comprising: discontinuing said suppression of said switching off when a vehicle speed is greater than a predetermined speed and an accelerator pedal is activated.

6. (currently amended)~~The method of claim 1,~~ A method for controlling an on/off state of an

internal combustion engine disposed in a motor vehicle, the running internal combustion engine capable of being automatically switched off, comprising: suppressing said capability of automatically switching off in response to detection of a stop-and-go situation; and

further comprising: discontinuing said suppression of said switching off when a predetermined waiting time has elapsed.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~1~~ 6 wherein said waiting time is approximately 5 seconds.

8. (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 1~~ A method for controlling an on/off state of an internal combustion engine disposed in a motor vehicle, the running internal combustion engine capable of being automatically switched off, comprising: suppressing said capability of automatically switching off in response to detection of a stop-and-go situation; and, further comprising: switching off the engine automatically when said automatic switching is suppressed and a vehicle brake is activated and a predetermined waiting time has elapsed.

9. (currently amended) The method recited in claim ~~1~~ 8 wherein said waiting time is approximately 5 seconds.

10. (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 1,~~ A method for controlling an on/off state of an internal combustion engine disposed in a motor vehicle, the running internal combustion engine capable of being automatically switched off, comprising: suppressing said capability of automatically switching off in response to detection of a stop-and-go situation; and

wherein said stop-and-go situation is detected when a reverse (R) or low (L) gear of an automatic transmission is selected, said automatic transmission being coupled to the engine.

11. (original) The method of claim 10, further comprising: discontinuing said suppression of said switching off when a drive (D) or neutral (N) gear of said automatic transmission is selected.

12. (cancelled)

13. (original) A method for controlling an on/off state of an internal combustion engine disposed in a motor vehicle, the running internal combustion engine capable of being automatically switched off, the engine having an automatic transmission, comprising:
switching off the engine automatically when a velocity of said vehicle is substantially zero and a vehicle brake is activated; and
suppressing said capability of automatically switching off when a park (P) gear of said the automatic transmission is selected.

14. (original) A method for controlling an on/off state of an internal combustion engine disposed in a motor vehicle, the running internal combustion engine capable of being automatically switched off, the engine having an automatic transmission, the automatic transmission having a gearshift lever capable of accessing positions drive (D), reverse (R), neutral (N), and manual (M), comprising: switching off the engine automatically when a velocity of said vehicle is substantially zero and a vehicle brake is activated and the manual (M) position of the automatic transmission is selected.

15. (original) The method of claim 14, further comprising starting the engine automatically when said vehicle brake is released.

16. (original) The method of claim 14, further comprising starting the engine automatically when an accelerator pedal is activated.

17. (cancelled)

18. (cancelled)

19. (cancelled)

20. (cancelled)

21. (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 17~~A method for controlling an on/off state of an internal combustion engine disposed in a motor vehicle, the running internal combustion engine capable of being automatically switched off, the engine having an automatic transmission, the automatic transmission having a gearshift lever capable of accessing positions drive (D), reverse (R), neutral (N), and manual (M), comprising: switching off the engine automatically when a velocity of said vehicle is substantially zero and a vehicle brake is activated and the drive (D) position of the automatic transmission is selected~~,~~, further comprising:

Starting the engine automatically when the manual (M) or reverse (R) position of the automatic transmission is selected; and

suppressing the capability of switching off automatically in response to said starting.

22. (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 18,~~ A method for controlling an on/off state of an internal combustion engine disposed in a motor vehicle, the running internal combustion engine capable of being automatically switched off, the engine having an automatic transmission, the automatic transmission having a gearshift lever capable of accessing positions drive (D), reverse (R), neutral (N), and manual (M), comprising: switching off the engine automatically when a velocity of said vehicle is substantially zero and a vehicle brake is activated and the drive (D) position of the automatic transmission is selected, and further comprising switching off the engine automatically when a velocity of said vehicle is substantially zero and a vehicle brake is activated and the neutral (N) position of the automatic transmission is selected; and further comprising:

starting the engine automatically when the manual (M) or reverse (R) position of the automatic transmission is selected; and

suppressing the capability of switching off automatically in response to said starting.

23. (original) A method for controlling an on/off state of an internal combustion engine disposed in a motor vehicle, the running internal combustion engine capable of being automatically switched off, the engine having an automatic transmission, the automatic transmission having a gearshift lever

capable of accessing positions drive (D), reverse (R), neutral (N), and manual (M), comprising: suppressing the capability of switching off automatically when the reverse (R) position of the automatic transmission is selected.

24. (original) The method of claim 23, further comprising discontinuing said suppression of the switching off when a velocity of the vehicle is greater than a predetermined velocity and the reverse (R) position of the automatic transmission is deselected.

25. (original) The method of claim 24 wherein said predetermined velocity is 5 km/hr.

26. (cancelled)

27. (currently amended) ~~The storage media of claim 26~~ A computer readable storage media having stored therein data representing instructions executable by a computer to control an internal combustion engine disposed in a motor vehicle, the running internal combustion engine capable of being automatically switched off, the storage media comprising:

instructions to suppress said capability of automatically switching off in response to detection of a stop-and-go situation; and wherein said stop-and-go situation is detected when a vehicle brake is released and reactivated within a predetermined time and a velocity of the vehicle is less than a predetermined speed.

28. (currently amended) The storage media of claim 26 A computer readable storage media having stored therein data representing instructions executable by a computer to control an internal combustion engine disposed in a motor vehicle, the running internal combustion engine capable of being automatically switched off, the storage media comprising:

instructions to suppress said capability of automatically switching off in response to detection of a stop-and-go situation; and, further comprising instructions to discontinue said suppression of said switching off when a predetermined waiting time has elapsed.

29. (currently amended) ~~The storage media of claim 26~~ A computer readable storage media having stored therein data representing instructions executable by a computer to control an internal combustion engine disposed in a motor vehicle, the running internal combustion engine capable of being automatically switched off, the storage media comprising:

instructions to suppress said capability of automatically switching off in response to detection of a stop-and-go situation; and, further comprising instructions to switch off the engine automatically when said automatic switching is suppressed and a vehicle brake is activated and a predetermined waiting time has elapsed.

30. (original) ~~The storage media of claim 26~~ A computer readable storage media having stored therein data representing instructions executable by a computer to control an internal combustion engine disposed in a motor vehicle, the running internal combustion engine capable of being automatically switched off, the storage media comprising:

instructions to suppress said capability of automatically switching off in response to detection of a stop-and-go situation; and, wherein said stop-and-go situation is detected when a reverse (R) or low (L) gear of an automatic transmission is selected, said automatic transmission being coupled to the engine.

31. (cancelled)

32. (cancelled)

33. (cancelled)

34. (cancelled)